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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY

China (Sinkiang)

SUBJECT

Soviet Sinkiang Mining Expedition Discoveries Near
Aqsu/Iran and Copper Deposits in Sinkiang/Fluorspar

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1. Sinkiang has a rich mineral potential that has yet not been tapped, nor is even totally known. No serious attempts have been made to discover or exploit the vast natural resources of this province, except by the Soviet Sinkiang Mining Expedition which surveyed the entire region between the years 1935 and 1943.

in 1939 a Soviet Sinkiang Mining Expedition team was charged with surveying the southern slopes of the Tien Shan Range. Prior to this survey Sinkiang was known to have exceptionally large deposits of petroleum, coal, gold, silver, platinum, iron, copper, lead, zinc, aluminum, jadeite, quartz, gypsum, common salt and rock salt. In addition to discovering many new deposits of these already known natural resources, the Soviet Sinkiang Mining Expedition is said to have also discovered large deposits of wolfram, uranium, beryl, dural, columbite and some diamonds and sapphires. The Soviets, made a concentrated effort to exploit only the petroleum, wolfram, uranium, beryl, dural, columbite, gold and platinum deposits of Sinkiang.

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2. on the southern slopes of the Tien Shan Range - somewhere between Aqsu (Akosu) and Muzart Pass, the following unexpected discoveries:

- A section where many rich surface veins of gold were found.
- An area where in only two days half a dozen pale blue sapphires were picked up.
- A large area where the mountains were streaked with thick layers of rock salt, colorless and transparent.

3. Another interesting observation in that general area was in a small village between Aqsu and Kucha (Kuche).

The water of a mountain stream, which is the only source of water for this village, was extremely bitter and caused all the local inhabitants to have bloated stomachs. Their abdomens were so large that none of them, including the small children, could see their feet and presented a very grotesque picture.

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of the
following places where iron ore is mined, [redacted] the vein running
through Chuguchak is by far the largest:

- a. Chuguchak (Tabcheng)
- b. Jimasa (Fuyuan)
- c. Bai (Paicheng)
- d. Aqsu (Akosu)
- e. Suiting
- f. Changki (Changchi)
- g. Tapancheng
- h. Yangihissar (Yingkisha)

Of the following eight locations in Sinkiang where copper is mined the
copper extracted from the mines near Kashgar are said to be the purest:

- a. Kashgar (Shufu)
- b. Bai (Paicheng)
- c. Kucha (Kuche)
- d. Urunchi (Tihwa)
- e. Tapancheng
- f. Qara Shahr (Yenki)
- g. Suiting
- h. Kuldja (Ining)

6.

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